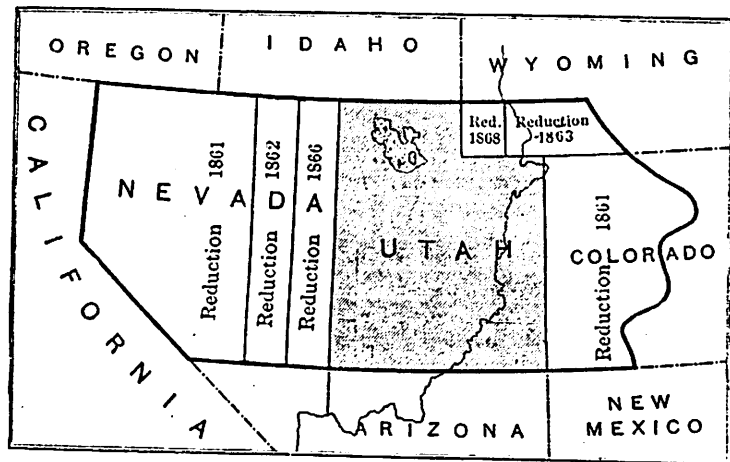


Orson F. Whitney

tioned Congress for a Territorial government. Four months later the prayer was granted. President Buchanan, two days before retiring from office (March 2, 1861) affixed his signature to the Act of Congress organizing the new Territory.*

New Boundaries. The eastern limit of Nevada was placed at the thirty-ninth meridian from Washington. During the same year the Territory of Col-



UTAH BOUNDARIES, PAST AND PRESENT.

orado was created out of portions of Utah, New Mexico, Kansas, and Nebraska. Our eastern boundary was then placed at the thirty-second meridian.†

*Judge C. C. Goodwin, now of Salt Lake City, was prominent in the early history of Nevada.

†In 1862 another degree was given to Nevada, and in 1866 still another, these also being taken from Utah. In 1863 Nebraska, and in 1868 Wyoming, each was given a piece off the northeastern corner of the Territory, and these changes brought Utah to her present dimensions.

During the winter of 1861-1862 the Utah Legislature defined anew the boundaries of the Territory. The counties then numbered seventeen, namely, Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, Box Elder, Cache, Utah, Tooele, Juab, Sanpete, Millard, Iron, Beaver, Washington, Morgan, Wasatch, Summit, and Green River.

The Utah "Dixie." In the latter part of 1861 several hundred families from Northern and Central Utah settled in Washington County.* St George and the towns on the upper Rio Virgen were located at that time.† The resources of the southern country were rapidly developed. The cotton industry, previously established there, received a great impetus from the Civil War, the blockading of Southern ports by Northern fleets having caused a scarcity of the cotton fabric throughout the country.‡

President Lincoln's Appointees. Abraham Lincoln was now President of the United States. His appointees for Utah included John W. Dawson, Governor; Frank Fuller, Secretary; and James Duane Doty, Superintendent of Indian Affairs.§ The Federal

*George A. Smith, the pioneer of Iron County, led this movement to Washington County. St. George was named for him. Later, Erastus Snow became the most notable man in Southern Utah.

†Rio Virgen is the Spanish form, and Virgin River the English form. Either is correct.

‡Cotton had been grown in Davis County as early as 1851, but the first cotton cloth was made in "Dixie," about 1856. A cotton colony was established in Washington County in the spring of 1858.

§Originally this office was united with that of Governor, but from this time forth it was separate and distinct.